

I write to urge you to reject the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking #02-230, which would limit the functionality of digital television sets. As currently constructed, this •broadcast flag• proposal would hamper innovation in digital televisions and other electronic equipment capable of receiving digital broadcasts.

The broadcast flag proposal before the commission was the product of the •Broadcast Protection Discussion Group,• an select group of industry insiders who brokered the deal. It would be unfortunate if the FCC were to codify this pact at the expense of consumer flexibility and choice.

While piracy is a valid concern, it is not the only issue that should be considered. Entertainment industry protections must be weighed against consumers• freedom to purchase and employ technology to enhance and utilize content. If enacted, the broadcast flag proposal would ignore these concerns and turn technological development over to an all-powerful subset of the entertainment industry.

In recent years, the entertainment industry has become acutely aware of the challenges it faces in the digital era. But these challenges do not give it the right to restrict consumers• abilities to record their favorite programs, or purchase electronic devices that allow them to record and save memorable family moments. The market is best suited to address and weigh these competitng concerns and the FCC should give it time to work - particularly in a nascent industry like digital television -- before handing over consumer autonomy to the whims of entertainment industry executives.

Why would you care if I record a news show? You don\'t even report on the real news. You only report what the corrupt gov\'t tells you you can. I have not seen anything about the 14 petitions of redress that the gov\'t is ignoring, or the opposition to the Irac war that is major because of the internet, or why so many people are opposed to the World Bank and the WTO, Naft, gatt and Ftaa. I am not a sports fan but if I wanted to record a game to watch later, what difference is it to you? I am sure it is just some sceme to get more money out of someone.

If you pass this we will still find a way to record what we want it will just cost a little bit more.